



ACLIMAS SWIM-DP

Minutes of the Kick-off meeting, held in Tunis, 21-22 March 2012

1 List of Participants

1. Netij Ben Mechlia, INAT, Tunisia, Local organiser and team leader
2. Mladen Todorovic, CIHEAM-IAMB, Italy, Project Coordinator
3. Saverio De Santis, CIHEAM-IAMB, Italy, Project Administrative Manager
4. Enrico Nerilli, CIHEAM-IAMB, Italy
5. Theib Oweis, ICARDA
6. Hassan Ouabbou, INRA, Morocco
7. Yahya Shakhathreh, NCARE, Jordan
8. José Luis Araus, UB, Spain
9. Gustavo Slafer, UL, Spain
10. Rossella Albrizio, ISAFOM, Italy
11. Pasquale Giorio, ISAFOM, Italy
12. Marie Therese Abi Saab, LARI, Lebanon
13. John Foulkes, UNOT, UK
14. Azzeddine El Brahli, AGENDA, Morocco
15. Musa Nimah, AFIAL, Lebanon
16. Moustafa El-Sayad, WNRDP, Egypt
17. Antonio Monteiro, CMCC-Sassari, Italy
18. Mohamed Masmoudi, INAT, Tunisia
19. Nissaf Bouhina, INAT, Tunisia
20. Nawel Temeni, INAT, Tunisia
21. Asma Lasram, ISA, Tunisia

Representatives of national and international authorities:

22. Mahmoud Elies Hamza, Director of INAT, Tunisia
23. Denis Pommier, EU delegation to Tunisia, EU
24. Fethi Lebdi, national SWIM focal point, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources Dept., Tunisia
25. Halim Ben Haj Salah, General Director of INGC (Institut National des Grandes Cultures), Tunisia
26. Ibtissem Riahi, Secretary General of INAT, Tunisia

2 Programme, contents of the presentations and discussions, and main outputs

The Kick-off meeting was organized jointly by CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari and Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie (INAT) at the meeting room of Water Lab.

The programme of the meeting, agreed previously, has been fully respected. The welcome address was given by the Director of INAT and the representatives of EU delegation to Tunisia and CIHEAM-IAMB. The session was chaired by Netij Ben Mechlia, local project leader.

An introductory speech to SWIM was given by Fethi Lebdi, national SWIM focal point while Mladen Todorovic, ACLIMAS Project Coordinator, introduced the project. He particularly underlined the project demonstration, implementation and dissemination features, its direct outputs, indicators to be monitored and evaluated and importance of communication, exchange of information and continuous co-acting with



SWIM-SM, EU delegations in the region and national SWIM focal points, and other similar activities in the region.

The other presentations were organized on a Target area basis and included the description of areas and demonstration fields, local farming systems, previous and on-going activities and working teams and plans. Saverio De Santis, project administrative manager, described in details administrative and financial issues including the roles and obligations of coordinating beneficiary and associated beneficiaries (partners). The partners who did not deliver to coordinating beneficiary signed and stamped the financial identification form are strongly urged to do it.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established including the project coordinator, project administrative manager and one representative of each partner.

On-ground Implementation Committee (GIC) was established including the project coordinator and leaders of local working teams. The local team leaders are the primary responsible for the implementation of the activities in target areas. A joint meeting of both committees was done.

Some partners (e.g. INAT) asked about the possibility to rent instead of purchase the terrain vehicles. Some others (e.g. LARI, INRA) asked about the possibility to acquire some other equipments for the demonstration fields instead of those initially planned. This is because some equipment is already available at the demonstration sites and some others, relevant for the project implementation, is missing. It was agreed that any particular request related to the changes in respect to the signed document should be formulated and delivered to the project coordinator who will contact the EC for the opinion and further instructions.

Moreover, there was a request by UL to slightly change the plan of visits to Target area (from 5+5+5 to 3+6+6 in years 1, 2 and 3, respectively) due to the fact that the greatest part of on-field activities will be held in 2nd and 3rd year of the project. It is agreed that this proposal should be concurred with the corresponding local leader following the overall benefits of the project and considering an eventual re-distribution of the budget among the partners in the 1st year which should be re-balanced in 2nd and 3rd year.

An overall working plan for the activities to be completed in the first year of the project was discussed and approved by PSC.

A detailed monitoring system will certify that the outputs are delivered timely by all partners. The project coordinator will deliver the templates for the reports that should be done at the end of each relevant activity (e.g. experts visits, courses, field days, seminars) as described in the project document.

A first version of the project web-site is announced as available at www.aclimas.altervista.org. All partners expressed their willingness to contribute in the improvement and update of the web-site sending the relevant material on time.

Several concluding considerations are as the following:

- ACLIMAS is a demonstration, implementation and dissemination project which should have an impact at different scales (horizontal and vertical) – local stakeholders should be involved in the project from the beginning!
- In each target country should be created (from the beginning) a strong link and collaboration with the EU delegations and national SWIM focal points inviting them to the events organized by the project and providing them all necessary data/info about the project
- In each target area should be searched for similar/complementary projects – creating synergies/clusters
- Whenever possible, a strategy for jointed concerted actions should be pursued
- The visibility of the project activities will be guaranteed not only through the project but also through the SWIM Supporting Mechanism (SWIM-SM). SWIM-DP and SWIM-SM should run simultaneously and complementary – next project meeting should be about end of October.



3 Working plan for the 1st year

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Partnership statement												
Transfer of budget 50%												
Visits of EU agro-expert												
Visits of EU sust-expert												
Purchase of equipment												
Transfer of total budget												
Local offices setup												
Varieties X mgm												
Demo-fields protocol												
Demo-fields setup												
Annual meeting												
Demo-activities, sowing												
1° Training course												
Annual Report												

Description:

- Partnership agreement will be prepared and send by the coordinating beneficiary to associated beneficiaries by the end of March following the draft agreed during the Kick-off.
- Accordingly, 50% of the budget assigned for the first year will be transferred to each partner provided that the financial identification form, correctly compiled and signed, was delivered to the coordinating beneficiary.
- The visits of EU agronomic experts and sustainability experts to target areas will be agreed directly by the local team leaders and project coordinator. It is recommended to get maximum benefits of those visits organizing the joint technical trips of both experts, project coordinator and project administrative manager. The initial visits should be focussed on the specific and/or dominant farming systems and farmers that will be directly involved in the demonstration and implementation programme. Moreover, a first series of short video-clips should be recorded during these visits describing the situation in the target areas before the implementation of the activities foreseen by the project.
- Purchase of the vehicle and equipment should be completed by month 6. Accordingly, the rest of available budget will be transferred to the associated beneficiaries to complete the acquisition procedure. This will permit the setup of local offices and start of setup of demonstration fields.
- The selection of potentially adaptable varieties and best management practices will be done jointly by the partners working in the same target area and will be coordinated by the local team leader. A common protocol for the demonstration work will be prepared in agreement to the proposal agreed during the kick-off meeting and presented here after. Accordingly, the setup of the demonstration fields will be completed by month 10 (October).
- The first Annual meeting will be organized by the end of October, very likely in the period 23-25 October. The place of the meeting will be agreed later on and it will depend on the on-going political and security situation in the region. The options (in preference order) are: 1) Lebanon; 2) Jordan, and 3) Morocco. This meeting should focus on the presentation of: a) the activities



completed up-to-date, b) detailed demonstration layouts, c) programme of the activities for the 2nd year. Moreover, a draft of the brochure describing the 1st year demonstration activities should be presented by each of 6 target area specific working groups.

- The demonstration activities will start in November with the sowing and the organization of the 1st Training courses at each site. The first course could be programmed as “training of trainees” event involving beside the farmers also the extension service staff to facilitate the implementation of the new varieties and management practices in target areas. 6 target area specific brochures (about the combinations of varieties and management practices included in the demonstration work) will be prepared and distributed. Equally so, the target area specific training material will be prepared and distributed.
- Annual Report should be delivered to the coordinating beneficiary not later than December 15th.

4 Proposed guide for demonstration work common protocol

- Minimum of three replications
- Minimum size of plots to be decided according to the local conditions, recommended 20m²
- Full weather data-set should be available using the data from the agro-meteorological station that will permit the estimation of reference evapotranspiration by Penman-Monteith equation
- Initial soil data should include the results of basic physical (granulometric) and chemical soil analysis permitting the determination of soil texture and depth. During the demonstration work, additional analysis should be required permitting the estimation of soil water content.
- Basic crop measurements should include: timing of phenological phases, final biomass and yield
- Desirable crop measurements (not a must) include: LAI, % of canopy cover, biomass, etc. during the whole growing cycle.
- Basic management data should include: sowing date and rate, N application (dates and amounts), irrigation (dates and rates); water quality (salinity).
- Basic derived parameters:
 - o crop evapotranspiration (ET_c), and
 - o Water productivity = nominator/denominator, where
 - Nominator is: a) Yield, b) Biomass, c) Economic value of products or income
 - Denominator is: a) ET_c, b) Precipitation, c) Gross Irrigation; d) Precipitation+Gross Irrigation;
 - WP should be derived as a function of different management practices



ANNEX 1. Final programme of the meeting

Day 1: Wednesday, March 21st 2012

09:30	Welcome addresses	<i>Mahmoud Elies Hamza (Director of INAT) Mladen Todorovic (CIHEAM-IAMB) Denis Pommier, (EU delegation to Tunisia)</i>
10:00	Introduction of the participants	<i>All</i>
10:15	Introduction to SWIM programme	<i>Fethi Lebdi (Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia)</i>
10:30	Introduction to ACLIMAS project	<i>Mladen Todorovic (CIHEAM-IAMB)</i>
11:15	On-ground sustainability evaluation	<i>Mladen Todorovic (CIHEAM-IAMB)</i>
11:30	Questions and discussion	<i>All</i>
11:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
12:15	Presentation of pilot area in Syria	<i>Theib Oweis (ICARDA) and Josè Luis Araus (UB)</i>
12:45	Presentation of pilot area in Tunisia	<i>Netij Ben Mechlia (INAT) and Enrico Nerilli (CIHEAM-IAMB)</i>
13:15	Discussion & overall workplan	<i>All</i>
13:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
15:15	Administrative and financial issues of the project	<i>Saverio De Santis (CIHEAM-IAMB)</i>
16:15	Questions and discussion	<i>All</i>
16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
17:15	On-ground implementation Committee <i>establishment</i> Project Steering Committee <i>establishment</i>	<i>All</i>
17:30	Project Steering Committee <i>meeting</i>	<i>PSG members</i>
18:30	<i>End of Day 1</i>	



Day 2: Thursday, March 22nd 2012

09:00	Presentation of pilot area in Lebanon	<i>Marie Therese Abi Saab (LARI), Rossella Albrizio (ISAFOM) and Musa Nimah (AFIAL)</i>
09:30	Presentation of pilot area in Jordan	<i>Yahya Shakhathreh (NCARE) and John Foulkes (UNOT)</i>
10:00	Discussion & overall workplan	<i>All</i>
10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00	Presentation of pilot area in Morocco	<i>Hassan Ouabbou (INRA), Gustavo Slafer (UL) and Azzeddine El Brahli (AGENDA)</i>
11:30	Presentation of pilot area in Egypt	<i>Moustafa El-Sayad (WNRDP) and Antonio Monteiro (CMCC-Sassari)</i>
12:00	Discussion & overall workplan	<i>All</i>
12:30	Drafting of Consortium Agreement and other administrative issues	<i>Saverio De Santis and Mladen Todorovic</i>
13:00	Wrap-up & next steps	<i>All</i>
13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
15:00	Visit to the project target area of North-Eastern Tunisia	<i>All</i>
21:30	<i>Return back to Tunis, End of the meeting</i>	



ANNEX 2. Photos



Group photo of the participants



Meeting room – opening session